

**PROCESS FOR SEPARATING ESSENTIAL OILS FROM AN
ESSENTIAL OIL-CONTAINING MATERIAL**

ABSTRACT

5 A process is provided for separating essential oils from
an essential oil-containing material. The process
comprises the steps of subjecting the essential oil-
containing material to steam distillation using a steam
distillation vessel or extraction using an extraction
10 vessel. This produces a mixture containing the essential
oil and at least one hydrophilic phase. This mixture is
then contacted with a hydrophobic adsorbent in an
adsorption vessel. The hydrophilic phase leaving the
adsorption vessel is recycled to the steam distillation
15 vessel or extraction vessel. Finally, the essential oils
are desorbed from the adsorbent.

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